

While undoubtedly some of the characters of the *Mitraria* indicated above are secondary and special adaptations of limited distribution, it is believed that the majority are ancestral for Brachiopods, Bryozoa, and Chaetopods, and that the common ancestor of these three groups is most closely preserved to us in the genus *Mitraria*. I therefore suggest as a name for the common ancestor of the Brachiopods, Chaetopods, and Bryozoa that of *Mitraria*, which up to the present is applied simply to the larval form of a single genus of Chaetopoda.

Museum of Comparative Zoology,
Cambridge, Mass.

Aspidophryxus Sarsii, Giard and Bonnier.

By the Rev. A. M. NORMAN, M.A., D.C.L., F.L.S.

The July 'Annals' contains a translation of the description of this parasitic Isopod, which I had placed in the authors' hands. It is, however, erroneously stated that the *Erythrops microphtalma* upon which it occurred was "dredged by G. O. Sars himself upon the Norwegian coast," and the *Aspidophryxus* is said to "have been determined as *A. peltatus* by G. O. Sars." I know not how the authors can have fallen into this error. The host with its parasite was dredged by myself in 1882 in Solems Fiord, Floro, Norway, among dead *Zostera* in 5 fathoms, and was named by me *A. peltatus*, as it appeared to be that species when still in the host, and while therefore those small differences on which Messrs. Giard and Bonnier have felt justified in establishing a new species were not visible. I have thought it just to correct the statement that my friend Prof. G. O. Sars had identified it as his *A. peltatus*.

July 15, 1889.

The Sepiolæ of the French Coasts. By M. A. GIARD.

The author refers to the two species supposed to be most abundant in the Pas de Calais, namely *S. atlantica* and *S. Rondeleti*, and notes that since the researches of Peters (in 1842) it has been supposed that the ink-bag in *S. Rondeleti* presents different forms at different seasons, being trilobate at the time of breeding and simple during the rest of the year. The modifications undergone by the organ in this respect were regarded by Peters as so important that at the first glance they might be regarded as of generic value. Girod (in 1882) confirmed Peters's opinion and extended it further to *S. atlantica*.

Steenstrup, in a memoir on the Mediterranean species of *Sepiolo* (Overs. Kongl. Dan. Vidensk. Selsk. Forh. 1887, pp. 47-56), describes the results of an investigation of a great number of types from various localities and collected at different seasons, and shows

that the ink-bag does not present the modifications supposed to occur in it, but that the form of the bag corresponds to other characters of systematic importance and also frequently to a different habitat.

The following table, taken from Steenstrup's 'Notæ Teuthologicæ,' furnishes an

Analytical Key to the Species of the Genus Sepiola from the Mediterranean, the Atlantic, and the North Sea.

- A. Ink-bag trilobate or auriculate; fins exceeding in length the half of the mantle (equal to $\frac{2}{3}$ of the mantle).
- a. Suckers of all the arms biseriolate 1. *S. Rondeleti*, Leach.
 - β. Suckers of the ventral arms pluriseriate (4-seriate) at the apex; suckers of the other arms biseriolate 2. *S. atlantica*, d'Orb.
- B. Ink-bag simple or pyriform; fins nearly equalling half the mantle, but never longer than half.
- a. Suckers of all the arms biseriolate } 3. *S. Petersi*, St.
 - β. Suckers of the ventral arms pluriseriate } 4. *S. scandica*, St.
 - at the end; suckers of the other arms biseriolate 5. *S. Oweniana*, d'Orb., St.

All these species (1-5) differ from each other by the clubs of the tentacles, as regards the relative size of the suckers, and the number of longitudinal series and of the teeth in the horny rings. *S. Oweniana*, especially, differs from all the rest in the very small suckers of its clubs. The valve of the funnel in the males is half or one third of the size of that of the females: it seems to be entirely wanting in the male of *Sepiola scandica* (?=*S. Rondeleti* of the English and Scandinavian faunas). The species with long fins (1 and 2) have lanceolate cultriform sepiostega. Those with short fins (3-5) have narrow, linear, or setiform sepiostega, to some extent resembling those of the type species of the genus *Mioteuthis*, Verrill. The other species of that genus are referred by Steenstrup to a new genus under the name of *Euprymna*.

The commonest species in the North Sea and the Pas de Calais is *Sepiola atlantica*, d'Orb. At Roscoff *S. atlantica* seems to be less common, and the dominant form is *S. Rondeleti* or *S. scandica*, both of which occur. From a statement of M. Girod it seems probable that *S. Oweniana* also exists at Roscoff.

According to M. Girod a specimen of *S. atlantica* obtained by dredging had the ink-bag simple; all the individuals seen by the author had it trilobate. M. Girod based his identification solely upon the *pluriseriate suckers*, the possession of which combined with the simple ink-bag is shown by the above table to lead to *S. Owen-*

iana, a species hitherto regarded as exclusively Mediterranean. It would be very interesting to see whether the individuals with pluri-seriate suckers and simple ink-bag agree in other characters with *S. Oweniana*, or whether they represent in the Atlantic a parallel form related to *S. Oweniana*, as *S. scandica* is to *S. Petersi*.—*Bulletin Scientifique*, 1889, pp. 171-175.

Note on Mr. Williams's Paper on a new Species of Ampullaria.

By EDGAR A. SMITH.

In the last number of these 'Annals' Mr. J. W. Williams, in his "Note on a new Species of *Ampullaria* from the La Plata," observes:—"I have, in company with Mr. Edgar Smith, examined the species belonging to this genus which are in the National Collection, and not found one to which this present shell could be referred."

This statement, although partly correct, but published without my knowledge, seems to imply that I also am of opinion that the Museum does not contain the species in question.

Of this I am not at all certain, for I well remember that Mr. Williams's study of the Museum series was very brief—nor did he examine the South-American *Ampullariæ* contained in the d'Orbigny collection.

It seems to me improper to cite my name apparently in support of the validity of the supposed new species without warning or permission. A museum official in assisting a visitor or student does not, without a distinct request, pledge himself that any species brought for comparison is or is not contained in the Museum!

Acanthodian Fishes from the Devonian of Canada.

By A. SMITH WOODWARD.

The known geographical distribution of the extinct Acanthodian fishes is gradually becoming extended by their discovery both in Canada and in Siberia; but the only genus hitherto definitely determined outside the European area is the typical *Acanthodes*. It is therefore interesting to note that fragmentary evidence of a remarkable generic type, first distinguished in the Lower Old Red Sandstone of Forfarshire, has lately been described and figured* from a corresponding horizon at Campbellton, New Brunswick; and the circumstance seems worthy of a brief special notice, since the relationships of the fossils in question are misinterpreted and unrecognized by their discoverer. These specimens are triangular dermal spines, more or less elongated, laterally compressed, marked with longitudinal ridges

* J. F. Whiteaves, "Illustrations of the Fossil Fishes of the Devonian Rocks of Canada.—Part II.," *Trans. Roy. Soc. Canada*, vol. vi. sec. iv. (1889), pp. 95, 96, pl. x. figs. 3, 4.